### BIRDS IN THE SNOW.

[Ouida in Belgravia.]

Keziah, with more grief on her shoul-ders than she felt- it right for one lone woman to have to bear, carried Ray up to his little bed, and bidding him not to fret so, because there was always hope, ran down stairs, stormed at the peddler for having been such a fool as to speak so before the children, and then took counsel with her neighbors as to what was best to do.

The men volunteered to go in search, but there were only four or five of them, and two of them very old. Still, out they went with their horn, lanterns, and pick-axes, and the thick falling snow soon hid them from sight.

They thought of going up to the church tower and ringing the two bells that are there; but they reflected that it would be of no use, because the wind was so high that the bells would have no chance of being heard. So the men went out to search as best they could in the wild night, and their frightened women sat for the most part in the kitchen of the over their flaxen heads. vicarage, taking a strange and terrible pleasure in hearing the peddler cry a bundred times, "Lord save us! he's a dead man!" till Keziah told him to go to bed for an old fool, which at last reluct-

The women sat over the fire and sipped piced wine, and told each other horrible tales of things their fathers and forefathers had done or known, with many a "He says, says he," occurring in their

narratives. Kezian sat up by the bedside of Rob and Ray; Rob slept, but Ray lay wide awake, and ever and again he shivered and moaned:

"Papa wouldn't help the birds-he wouldn't-and I know God was angry." The long night wore away, the winds never ceasing to howl, the snow never

ceasing to fall. At day-break the men returned, having found nothing. They said they had searched all the moor for eight miles, but in real truth, though they did not know it, they had scarcely been a mile from home, having gone round and round in a circle, not seeing where they were in the darkness. The morning broke gray and dreary; the snow still fell, but the winds dropped. Keziah chose the youngest and strongest of the men and bade him strive to get across to Tamsleigh. It was hard to do, and an errand of danger, for the paths were all obliterated and communication stopped, but the man was a bold young fellow and promised to do his best. "Though as for that," he muttered,

his Reverence is a dead man if he's out this freezin' night."

tower and set the bells tolling; the wind had fallen, and it was possible that in The women were me the more distant houses they might be heard and some help or some news

It was now eleven o'clock in the morning, the hour at which the service of gathered about her knees, and the little Christmas Day should have begun. The girls slept in her arms. Night once more church was a little, dark, dismal place; began to fall over the world of snow. In church was a little, dark, dismal place; here and there it had been brightened with a bit of holly, or a branch of a bar-berry tree; the Vicar did not approve such follies, and there was little done to relieve the bare stone walls, the square years before. box of a pulpit, the little chancel, dismal and damp as any dungeon. As the weather cleared a little the women casement so that by chance they might dropped in, in their red cloaks, and made to pray there on Christ's morn, and the and thinking of the ships at sea, of the maybe, frozen dead in some rastor

snowdrift. At the vicarage Kezish tried in vaiu to read the morning service to the chil-dren by the kitchen fire; her voice faltered and their attention wandered. fire, his They were all grave and frightened, even parted. the twin Babies, and Ray sat in the win-dow-seat with his face pressed against the glass, quite silent. The look of the boy frightened his nurse almost more than the loss of her master.

"He do take things to heart so," she said to herself, with a sigh.

It was no use to try and read; she closed the big black Prayer Book, and let the startled parishioners come in; some of them had plodded many miles over the snow not to miss the blessing of the Christmas prayer, and the found the church empty and the Vicar absent. All were sure he was dead; surer yet, when a man, at great risk to himself, came over from Tamsleigh Great House to say the Squire trusted his Reverence had

reached home safely.
"Didn't I tell ye truth, ye unbelievin' Jews?" said the peddler, who enjoyed his own importance as a sharer in this terrible history.

There could be no doubt now. The Vicar had left Tamsleigh, refusing all the Squire's offers, and set forth to walk

home.

Every one there knew that he must have lost his way, and in all likelihood had perished.

"It do come like a judgment," whis-pered Keziah to a friend out of the children's hearing. "Ay, it do. He scolded and punished them dear little souls just for feeding the frozen-out birds! And eyes unclosed, and whose gray lips feebly now now he knows himself what it is - death in the snow."

Rob began to cry because the women were crying and he was frightened. Ray never shed a tear nor said a word; he only thought to himself with an unutterable horror:

"God was angry!"

still and frightened. Ray was mute,

and scarcely moved. By four it was once more quite dark. The villagers bung about, cowed and late moor.

afraid, like the children. Christmas Day
was passing and there had been no serawful prese lie on them forever.

All the hushed, whitened moor was without a sound; the safely folded sheep bleated now and then, and the cattle lowed in the byre; that was all; otherwise, a silence like that of death envoices.

All at once Keziah rose and took the arms, with their woolen hoods pulled

"Christ's Day must not go by without a prayer said in His church," she said to the folks in the kitchen. "Let us go and pray there for master. "Twill save the day from heathendom."

She went out into the deepening gloom, into the air that was bitter still, but quite windless. Followed by the children, she went over the snow under the dark boughs of the trees to the church door, and entered it, the women going behind her with lanterns under their cloaks. They set down their lanterns in the middle of the isle, and the light made a little pale glow on the tombstones that

formed the pavement.

Keziah kneeled down and prayed aloud, and the voices of the people echoed hers; when her prayer had ceased and all was silent, the little faint voice of Ray stole through the stillness.

"God, please do not be angry any more because papa made a mistake; he did not mean to be cruel. Please save the sheep and the birds and save him. Please do not be angry any more.

Then his own little voice died away in a sob, and all the women kneeling there in the cold and the dark wept too. Solemnly, as they had entered, and left the church; some one had said, "Let us sing a psalm," but no one could sing, their hearts were too full, for all their mer were out on the moors, and who could know what might chance there?

Then Keziah on her threshold turned and said to her neighbors:

"Now thank you all kindly, but go to your homes. Gossiping is bad at such a time as this. For me I will keep by the The other men went up to the church hearth with the children. The Lord

The women were moved at the seriousness of a woman always mirthful and neighborly, and each went quietly to her own cottage. She tierself went home as she said she should, and the little boys the inner kitchen the old peddler and an old laborer, too old to go out and assist to search, were talking low over their ale of storms they had known forty long

Keziah had shut no shutters; she had lit candles and put them against each assist her master if he were able to find

e mour

travelers on the moor, of the sheep lost on the tors, and the trains blocked in the snow.

Ray, with his hands clasped about his little naked legs, sat and gazed into the fire, his eyes wide open, and his mouth parted.

"Pray do not make me go to bed," he said once; "pray do not."

So when she put the others to bed size let him set up with her by the fire.

"Why won't you go to bed, dear?" she asked of him as the cuckoo clock told nine of the night.

nine of the night. Bay shuddered. "In my bed, last night, when I did

sleep, I saw papa dead in the snow, and God's birds covering him with leaves. I should see it again now." "Ah, my poor child!"

He leaned his head against her, and they sat in the chimney corner together. The cuckoo called ten o'clock.

There was a sound of voices outside the house, the shuflling of men's feet in the crisp snow; the dog barked outside, the flash of torches flared red on the lattices. Ray and his nurse sprang up and rushed to the door and forced it open. The men were bearing a litter, and the

foremost one cried out: "Little master, it's your father. We have done a good Christmas night's work. Nay, nay, he's not dead; never

fear.' Rob rushed out in the snow.

For many moments all was confusion; then the men laid the shutter gently down before the fire, and taking the wraps strown over him, showed Ray the motionless form of his father, whose murmured:

"My little boy, do not be afraid."

Ray burst into tears, and kissed his father as he had never dared to kiss him in his life.

retting out to walk homeward from Tamsleigh, he crossed half the moor safely, in the teeth of the blinding storm, "God was angry!"
Christmas morning began to pass away, the beef lay unroasted; the pudding that had been in the pot all night, boiled madly unnoticed; the bells of the church tolled without ceasing. Folks began to come in from the out-lying parts of the parish as the skies cleared and the frost made the snow passable. They all brought terrible tales of the past day and night; of sheep frozen to death, effects bleecked, of travelers lost, of horses killed, of boys drowned by splitting ice, and of haustlets shut off from each other. It was runored that the great train from London, twenty miles away, was standing still all night that its freight of passable to move, and that some of them were frozen to death.

Kasiah listened with a beating haart

to all these histories. It was now three the wild day of Yule itself, while his peo o'clock; she had put away the Christmas ple were searching for him east and west, dinner and fed the children on milk porridge, and kept them quiet round her.
There was no love in them to agitate
their little souls for their missing father,
but the sense of some great calamity
but the sense of some great calamity
around weighed on them and kept them around weighed on them and kept them in by the impassable barrier of the fallen oaks and the rocks, and knowing well that none could see him or hear his voice, shout as he would over the deso-

Death was very near him, and in its awful presence he regretted many things vices at the church. It seemed to them and repented many. He thought of his a thing so terrible that the sin of it would poor little chidren with shame and sorrow, and he remembered how he had struck the child for its charity to the birds-for the alms of bread that now he would have thanked heaven for himself! Wh n the sound of the searchers coming over the snow was borne to his ear, and wrapped the village and the church, and the people dared not speak above their often chained and often beaten!—brought them to his hiding-place, and with ropes let down to him from above they dragged two little girls, one on each of her strong him up into the starlit, whitened world, the stern Vicar was no stronger than his

little son; he swooned away. He had been imprisoned in the snow for thirty hours.

As he lay in the warmth of his own hearth, with the firelight dancing on the light curls of Ray, he opened his feeble arms to the child.

"My boy, I have been cruel to you. Forgive me. Since my life has been spared, I will try to make it a blessing to you and your brothers."

"And the birds?" whispered Ray. His father smiled.

"You shall hang a sheaf of corn out every winter, as they do in the Sweden of your story-books. I know now what it is-to die in the snow."

Ray laid his head upon his father's

breast, and was happy.
When the morning, which was cloudless, came, he had his sheaf of wheat, and hung it above the door, and all the birds flocked to it, fluttering and chirping in little multitudes, the bold bright robins foremost.

"God did hear me when I asked Him not to be angry any more," said Ray.

And Rob said:

"Me, too, I asked Him."

And hand in hand they looked up at the broad blue sky. THE END.

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# dropped in, in their red cloaks, and made a glow in the darkness, but they did not his homeward way. "Lord help them all, poor souls!" she it seemed more cold and horrible having it seemed more cold and horrible having and thinking of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the analysis of the color of the ships at see of the color of the c

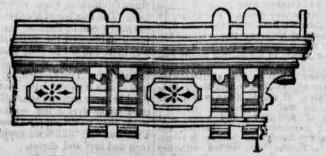
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Corrected to Accord With City Time.

Depot, corner McLean ave. and Gest street. ATLANTIC & GREAT WESTERN. Depct Pith and Hondly. Parkersburg Ac.
Hillsboso Ac.
Parkersburg Ex. daily
Parkersburg Ex. daily
Chillicothe Ac. oveland Ac.

The 6:13 a. m. train connects for Portsmouth v Chillicothe. The 8:25 a. m. and 9:48 p. m. trai connect for Jackson and Portsmouth, via Hamde Depot, Pearl and Plum.

Baltimore Ex. daily... Baltimore Ex daily... St. Louis Past Line.
St. Louis Ex. daily.
St. Louis Ex. daily.
St. Louis Ex. daily except
Saturday.
Cairo Mail.
Cairo Ex.
Evansville Mail.
Evansville Rx.
Kansas City Fast Line.
Kansas City Ex.
North Vernon Ac.
Osccod Ac. Oscood Ac
Louisville Fast Line, d'y
Louisville Ex
Louisville Ex
Louisville Night Ex., d'y
Springfield Ex 12:17 p m 7:27 a m ... 7:57 e m ... 3:12 p m 12:17 p m 8:37 p m

Sunday Trains—
Sunday Trains—
Louisville Fast Line.
Louisville Night Ex.
St. Louis Night Ex.
St. Louis Night Ex. 7:57 a m 7:27 a m ... 7:12 p m Depot, Fifth and Hoselly. 9:23 pm 9:23 pm 8:28 pm 8:28 pm 9:23 pm 7:06 am 7:25 pm 7:25 pm 6:18 pm 6:18 pm 6:18 pm 6:18 pm Dayton Ex. daily..... ndianapolis Mail... ndianapolis Ex Chicago Ex. Chicago Ex., daily... Glendale Ac..... Hamilton Ac.....

On Sundays, Dayton Accommodation at 8:23 a. m., arriving at 6:53 p. m. Depot, Fifth and Hoadly. th and Hoadly. 7:08 a m 2:23 p m 7:25 p m Chicago Ex.
Richmond Ac.
Chicago Ex. dally.

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Indianapolis Ex 4:13 p m 9:54 KENTUCKY CENTRAL. Denot, Pike and Wash
Lexington Mail
Maysville Ex.
Frankfort Ac.
Mt. Sterling Ex.
Lexington Ex.
Frankfort Fast Line.
Mt. Sterling Ac.
Richmond Ex.
Lexington Ex.
Butler Ac.
Shidnight 6:10 pm 6:10 pm 6:10 pm 6:10 pm 6:10 pm 6:10 pm 11:30 am 6:10 pm

. 2:00 p m .12:00 m° .12:00 m° "Midnight DEE LINE DAYTON SHORT-LINE BOUTE, C. C. Depot, Sixth and Hoadly.

 
 New York Fast Line Ex.
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 New York Ex.
 12:35 pm

 Boston Ex., daily.
 9:12 pm
 9:13 pm 6:13 am 3:35 pm 10:35 am 6:23 pm 8:06 am Springfield Ac., Depot, Sixth and Hondly. Columbus Ex. 5-23 a m Columbus Ex. 2.38 p m

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Depot, Pearl and
Indianapolis Ac.
Indianapolis Mail.
Indianapolis Mail.
Indianapolis Ex. (daily).
Martinsville Ac.
Indianapolis Ex. (daily).
Lafayette Mail.
Lafayette Ex. (daily).
Chicago Mail.
Chicago Ex. (daily).
St. Louis Ex. daily.
7 Peoria Ex. daily.
Quincy Mail.
Cairo Ex. daily.
Evansville Mail.
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Evansville Mail
Evansville Ex. daily.
Burlington Ex. daily.
Pana Ex. daily.
Valley Junction Ac...
Valley Junction Ac...
Harrison Ac...
Harrison Ac...
Harrison Ac...
Lawrenceburg Ac. 5:00 p m 10:15 a m 8:10 p m

Lawrenceburg Ac.
Lawrenceburg Ac.
Lawrenceburg Ac.

The 11:00 p. m. train
p. m. on Fridays.
Sunday Accommodati Harrison Ac. 10:00 p m

WHITEWATER VALAEY.

Depot, Pearl and Plum.

Cambridge City Mail. 8:40 a m

Cambridge City Ex. 5:00 p m

Hagerstown Mail. 8:40 a m

Hagerstown Ex. 5:00 p m

Muncie Mail. 8:40 a m

Fort Wayne Ex. 5:40 a m

Stop am

Sto CINCINNATI, WABASH & MICHIGAN (VIA L. C. &L.

Depot, Pearl and Plum

8:33 a m 6:23 p m 11:23 p m 7:43 a m 6:38 p m 1:28 p m 10:15a m Piainville Ac....

Plainville Ac. 17:48 m 10:18a m
The 8:08 a. m. and 4:02 p m. trains connect for
Yellow Springs and Springfield. The Churen Train
leaves Loveland Sundays at 2:0 n. m. and return
ing leaves Cinconnat at 1:38 p. m.
CLEVYLAND, MT. VERNON AND COLUMBUS.
Depot. Front and Kilgour.
Cleveland Express. 8:08 a m 7:33 p s
CINCINNATI AND SURSENGEN VALLEY.
Depot. Front and Kilgour.
Zenesville Ex. 10:48 a m 2:58 p m
Circleville Ac. 4:08 p m 11:03 a m
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New Rich nond Ac. 4:08 p m 9:08 a m
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Depc. Front and Kilgour.

Amelia Ac. 7:88 m 1:28 p m